

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 AGR-20 SP-03 EB-11 NSC-07 RSC-01

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 PA-04

PRS-01 USIA-15 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00

XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06 SIL-01 SWF-02 ABF-01 CU-04 PC-10

FDRE-00 SPM-01 DRC-01 /222 W
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R 131345Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9769

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 0706

PASS AID

DAKAR FOR RDO, MONROVIA FOR AGATT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : EAID

SUBJECT : MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE ON PL-480
ASSISTANCE

1. DURING MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE SUNDAY EVENING, MAY 12, I INFORMED HIM THAT DESPITE SEVERE SHORTAGES MOST COMMODITIES IN US AND DESPITE WORLDWIDE NEED, FORTUITOUS CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD ENABLE USG TO INCREASE PL-480 ASSISTANCE TO GUINEA DURING FY-1974 TO OVER TWICE AMOUNT ORIGINALLY OFFERED, INCLUDING ADDITIONAL WHEAT FLOUR AND ALSO CORN. I SAID EXACT AMOUNTS WOULD BE FIXED LATER THIS WEEK. TOURE INTERVENED IMMEDIATELY TO EXPRESS RELIEF AND GENUINE GRATITUDE. HE ASKED THAT THANKS BE EXPRESSED TO USG AND ALL PERSONS CONCERNED WITH DECISION. SAID GUINEA DESPERATELY NEEDED AS MUCH HELP AS POSSIBLE AND HE "WOULD CONTINUE TO
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PRAY" UNTIL HE OFFICIALLY INFORMED OF EXACT AMOUNTS TO BE

FURNISHED WHICH HE HOPED WOULD BE MAXIMUM POSSIBLE.

2. I ALSO TOLD TOURE THAT USG PREPARED TO MAKE SORGHUM AVAILABLE TO GUINEA UNDER SEPARATE (TITLE II) PROGRAM FOR DROUGHT-AFFECTED AREA. AMOUNT OF SORGHUM WOULD DEPEND UPON FINDINGS OF ON-SITE INSPECTION BY USAID REP TOGETHER WITH GUINEAN GOVERNMENT EXPERTS. VISIT OF USAID OFFICIALS SET FOR MAY20. TOURE SAID OFFICIALS WOULD BE MOST WELCOME AND WOULD BE GIVEN ALL FACILITIES FOR MEETINGS AND TRAVEL.

3. TOURE TALKED AT SOME LENGTH ABOUT SERIOUS FOOD SHORTAGES AND THEIR EFFECT, REPEATING AND RE-EMPHASIZING REMARKS PREVIOUSLY MADE. SAID AS LABOR LEADER ALL HIS LIFE HE KNOWS THAT PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD IN MOST CASES LEAD TO SEVERE POPULAR UNREST. THIS SO FAR AVOIDED IN GUINEA DUE TO DISCIPLINE OF POPULATION AND THEIR CONFIDENCE IN REGIME. HE SAID THAT SHORTAGES DUE PRIMARILY TO LACK OF WATER WERE WIDESPREAD AND WERE PARTICULARLY SERIOUS IN SUCH GOVERNATES AS KOUNDARA, MALI, SIGUIRI AND KANKAN WHICH BORDER ON REPUBLICS OF SENEGAL AND MALI. HE EMPHASIZED GUINEA GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO INCREASE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND EXPRESSED HOPE HE COULD COUNT ON SYMPATHETIC UNDERSTANDING AND ASSISTANCE FROM GUINEA'S FRIENDS IN THIS REGARD. I TOLD TOURE THAT REGIONAL AID OFFICER AND AGRICULTURAL EXPERT WOULD ALSO BE IN GUINEA BEGINNING MAY 20 TO DISCUSS WAYS IN WHICH USG MIGHT BE ABLE TO COOPERATE WITH GUINEA FOR INCREASED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION.

4. ACTION REQUESTED:

A. REQUEST I BE INFORMED BY IMMEDIATE TELEGRAM, AS SOON AS I AM AUTHORIZED TO TELL TOURE EXACT AMOUNT OF INCREASED PL-480 PROGRAM. PRESUME ARRANGEMENTS FOR AMENDMENT OF MAY 8 AGREEMENT WILL BE MADE IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER.

B. REQUEST I BE ADVISED NAME AND ETA OF OFFICIAL DESIGNATED TO INSPECT DROUGHT AFFECTED AREAS IN CONNECTION WITH PL-480 TITLE II PROGRAM. PRESUME GUINEA EMBASSY WASHINGTON WILL BE NOTIFIED AND VISA OBTAINED THERE.
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